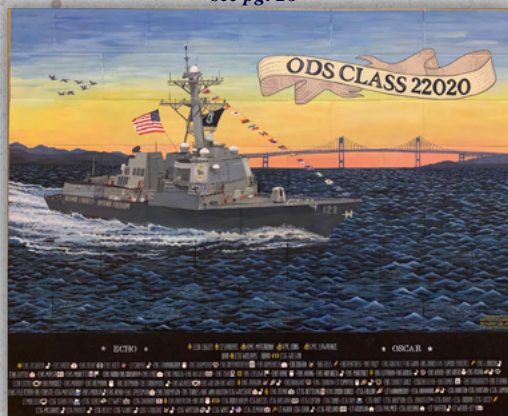


# NURSE CORPS NEWSLETTER

## The Journey of Officer Designator School

see pg. 26



## Happy Birthday Nurse Corps!

see pp. 13-21



## "Nurse Residents at Simulation Training"

see pg. 12



## Impact of Nurse Corps Reserves

see pp. 22 & 24



## WCC's Newest Namesake!!

see pg. 23

## Nurse Corps News Staff

Editor in Chief: LCDR William Westbrook

Design/Layout Editors

LT Randi Acheson (AC)  
LT Nube Macancela (AC)  
LT Barbara Kent (AC)  
LT Ronald Rollon (RC)  
LCDR Kristin Leone (RC)

Use the interactive links to:

Email the News Team

Access MilSuite

Be added to the NC News ListServ



## IN THIS ISSUE

Directors' Messages	Pp. 2-3
Specialty Leader Updates	Pp. 4-8
SG Leadership Symposium	Pg. 9
Specialty Leader Symposium/ CNO Orientation	Pp. 10-11
Nurse Residency Program	Pg. 12
Nurses Week/ NC Birthday	Pp. 13-21
Community Updates/Articles	Pp. 22-26
Hail & Farewell	Pp. 27-28
Bravo Zulu	Pp. 29-32



# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

A Message from the Nurse Corps Director  
**Cynthia Kuehner, RDML, NC, USN**



To my *Ready, Relevant, Resilient (and Real)* Navy Nurse Corps Colleagues,

With my sincere joy, pride, and heartfelt inspiration, I wish our Navy Nurse Corps a very happy 114<sup>th</sup> Birthday! Today and every day, I am in absolute awe of the meaningful and enduring contributions Navy Nurses have made in service to our Navy and Nation. In the past two years alone, over 900 active and reserve Navy Nurses, approximately 24 percent of our total force, deployed in support of COVID operations and Operation Allies Welcome.

Since our founding in 1908, Navy Nurses have never wavered in the face of adversity. From the valiant original *Sacred Twenty* to the more than 3,770 Navy Nurses we have today, we have set an unsurpassable record of excellence and dedication in the care of Sailors, Marines, and their families, in every theater and against any threat! This legacy continues with each and every one of you bringing your best, while deployed in austere environments, overseas, onboard Navy ships, with our Fleet Marine Force, or in garrison, at medical centers, in academic appointments, in joint assignments, and in key milestone billets.

I am honored to be your Director and privileged to be serving among our Navy Nurse Corps leaders, experts, specialists, innovators, visionaries, teachers, caregivers, and loyal Shipmates. You are – in a word – *extraordinary*! With deep joy and gratitude, I extend my wishes for a happy, healthy 114<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to our cherished Navy Nurse Corps! Celebrate!

Sincerely,

CYNTHIA A. KUEHNER  
Rear Admiral, Nurse Corps  
United States Navy

RDML Kuehner's theme for this issue of the Nurse Corps Newsletter is "*Transition*". Access the QR code below to view her message to our Navy Nurse Corps!



## Director, Navy Nurse Corps All Hands Call

**Tuesday ~ June 7, 2022**

0800 - 0900 EST // 1800 - 1900 EST

On behalf of Admiral Cindy Kuehner and the Nurse Corps Senior Leadership Team  
You are cordially invited to connect with us on MS Teams for our  
Quarterly All Hands Call.

0800 – 0900 EST

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

+1 410-874-6749

Conference ID: 356 064 624#

1800 – 1900 EST

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

+1 410-874-6749

Conference ID: 377 294 163#

POC for Coordination:  
LCDR Rachel Bradshaw  
[rachel.a.bradshaw.mil@mail.mil](mailto:rachel.a.bradshaw.mil@mail.mil)



# DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

A Message from the Nurse Corps Deputy Director (Reserve Component)

**Eric Peterson, RDML, NC, USN**

Happy Spring and 114th Nurse Corps Birthday to my esteemed Nurse Corps Colleagues!

I am proud and honored to be a representative for you, work for you, and assist in knocking down barriers to make your life and roles more manageable. It is an honor of a lifetime to do this for you! Navy Nurses are some of the best trained, most skilled, and astute leaders of any nurses worldwide; I am extremely confident of this! I say this because we have continued to build upon the foundation that our predecessors have created for us.

As I reflect on our history, let us also look to our future. We must continue to remain **Ready, Relevant, and Resilient**, mentoring up and down. We must also continue developing our leadership skills to guide and build our units.

Our mission is to create scalable, agile, modular, deployable medical teams to support our warfighters. We hold a legacy of determined, innovative nursing leaders, and I can't think of a better team to do it.

Once again, Happy 114th Nurse Corps Birthday. I hope you were able to take the time to reflect and celebrate. Thank you for all you and your families do every day!~





## Community Update: Medical-Surgical (1910)



Tuesday Adams  
LCDR, NC, USN  
1910 Specialty Leader

Crystal Saraceni  
LCDR, NC, USN  
Assistant Specialty Leader



ENS Kyle Keeler (NMRTC Bethesda) gives report to Lafayette (LA) General nursing staff while in support of COVID operations. Photo by LCDR Nathan Aranas/Released.

Are you ready? Is your staff ready to deploy in their specialty? If nothing else, we must remember that we all are required to remain relevant and ready as a nurse as well as a naval officer. Maintaining skills as a Medical-Surgical nurse can be challenging when we are spread throughout the MTFs, clinics, USMC MEDBNs and other non-traditional areas. In talking with our CNOs, Clinical Nurse Specialist's (CNS) and clinical leaders, they have made strides to create unique ways to ensure staff readiness through high-risk, low-volume skills fairs and clinical sustainment with community partnerships.

Deployments continue to happen; however, they look different than previous years as Medical-Surgical nurses were, and still are, called upon to answer the call for assistance with the pandemic. Over the last year, we deployed 122 members, from 25 UICs, to five different combatant commands for a variety of missions totaling over 6,000 deployment days. We were not alone on these missions as we stood beside our fellow Nurse Corps colleagues reaching back to our fundamental skills as Medical- Surgical nurses.

As I conclude my three-year tenure as the 1910 Specialty Leader, I hand the reigns to **LCDR Amy Barendse** (Specialty Leader) and **LCDR Crystal Saraceni** (Assistant Specialty Leader). During my time, so much has happened with the changing of Elsevier competencies, adding certifications for "K" code, increasing our AQDs, increasing DUINS opportunities and opening opportunities for 1910s to be more operational. I am proud to continue to practice as a Medical-Surgical nurse, to have led the largest nursing community in the NC through continued deployments, a pandemic and transition to DHA. This collateral has been a most rewarding duty and I will always cherish it.

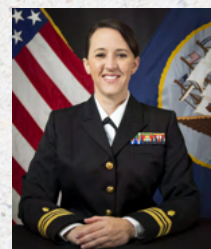


LT Michael Short, reviews restraint indications and safety attendant training with staff at NMRTC Bethesda Skills fair. Photo by LCDR Nathan Aranas/Released.

For more information regarding Medical-Surgical nursing visit our milSuite page or request to be added to our Listserv email.~



LT Bridget Moriarty, NMRTC Great Lakes deployed to Wenatchee, WA in support of COVID operations/Released.



LCDR Amy Barendse  
Incoming 1910 Specialty Leader





Victor Canchola  
CDR, NC, USN  
1910 Reserve Specialty Leader

**Commander Victor Canchola** graduated from University of Texas at El Paso in 1994 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and received his Master of Business Administration and Health Care Management from the University of Phoenix in 2004. He commissioned in March 3, 2012 after a break in service. He is the Command Officer in Charge for ASU NR Tranquility that has DET HQ, LOU and PIT. He is also the NR Medical-Surgical specialty leader. CDR Canchola was prior enlisted HM 8404 from June 1984 to May 1989. He was stationed and served at Lemoore Naval Air Station, and aboard USS O'Brien (DD975). He completed Direct Commission Indoctrination Course in 2012, and fulfilled progressive roles such as Medical Safety Officer, Training Officer, Assistant Officer in Charge, Officer in Charge, and Assistant Chief Nursing Officer. He has numerous deployments including Djibouti, Africa and Guantanamo, Cuba. As a civilian, he works for the Department of Defense/United States Army as a Nurse Case Manager in the Soldier Recovery Unit. He is also employed as a Charge Nurse at El Paso County Detention Facility Medical Clinic. CDR Canchola has 27 years of nursing experience.



Carol Good  
CDR, NC, USN  
Asst. Specialty Leader

**Commander Carol Good** received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing from Washington State University in 1989 and Master's Degree in Nursing, Adult/Geriatric Nurse Practitioner from the University of Washington. She entered active duty Air Force as a commissioned Nurse Corps officer. She separated from the Air Force after 4 years of active duty in Medical-Surgical and ICU nursing but later joined the Navy Reserve as a Direct Commission after a break in service. She deployed to Kandahar Afghanistan, Role 3 hospital in 2012/2013 as a Medical-Surgical nurse. She served multiple roles including Administration Officer, Training Officer, Assistant Officer in Charge, Officer in Charge, Regional Director, Command Assistant Fitrep Coordinator, and Innovative Readiness Training Assistant Officer in Charge. She is currently serving as the NR Assistant Medical-Surgical Specialty Leader and NR Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Center Camp Pendleton Assistant Chief Nursing Officer. She is employed at the VA Medical Center in Spokane, WA on Home-Based Primary Care unit. She has 29 years of nursing experience.



Teresa Scharar  
CDR, NC, USN  
Asst. Specialty Leader

**Commander Teresa Scharar**, originally from Sparks, Nevada is a graduate of the Orvis School of Nursing at the University of Nevada, Reno. She holds a Masters of Nursing as a Family Nurse Practitioner from the University of South Alabama. She began her military career through the Nurse Candidate Program. After graduation, she served active duty service at Naval Medical Center San Diego, CA followed at Naval Hospital Yokosuka, Japan. She transitioned to the Reserves and served as Training Officer and Assistant Officer in Charge. In 2019, she attached to EMF Camp Pendleton serving as the Assistant Senior Nurse Executive, now known as Assistant Chief Nursing Officer. Currently, she is the Reserve Assistant Specialty leader for Medical-Surgical nursing. She deployed aboard the USNS Comfort and the USNS Mercy in support of Continuing Promise 2009 and Pacific Partnership 2010, and to Kandahar Air Field Role 3 in 2011 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Her clinical experience includes Med-Surg, Labor and Delivery, Acute Care, Long-Term Acute Care, Urgent Care and Research. She has 18 years of nursing experience.





## Community Update: Public Health (1940)



Tim Whiting  
CDR, NC, USN  
1940 Specialty Leader

Tracy Krauss  
CDR, NC, USN  
Asst. Specialty Leader

March of 2022 marks the two-year anniversary of COVID-19 bringing life as we knew it to an abrupt halt. Last year we reflected on the one-year anniversary and the amazing roles our small but mighty community played globally. Another trip around the Sun and we have watched the pandemic battlefield morph from the trench warfare of overflowing ICUs and beyond capacity wards to public complacency and reluctant acceptance that COVID-19 will likely reach endemic status before too long.



LCDR Nikki Pritchard, (center) assigned to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, 29 Palms and Public Health Lead for Task Force Liberty, interacts with staff members preparing to open the new medical station Liberty Village, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, Sept. 11, 2021. (National Guard photo by Master Sgt. John Hughel, Washington Air National Guard)

Throughout the pandemic, additional public health issues of significance joined the headlines. From an unprecedented social movement for racial justice to health equity to welcoming tens of thousands of Afghan refugees to a new home. Along the way, Public Health nurses have demonstrated every aspect of tremendous leadership to be expected from the intersection of a military officer, a nurse and a Public Health professional. From the Specialty Leader (SL) seat there are no words to express the fortune

of being able to bear witness to such an amazing group of people working through unprecedented contemporary public health issues.

March of 2022 also marks the next milestone for the Public Health nursing community as this is my last newsletter from the SL seat. The future of this community is now in the hands of **CDR Tracy Krauss** as the new SL and **LCDR Stefanie Nochisaki** as the new Assistant Specialty Leader (ASL). When reflecting upon the past five years as SL and ASL, I was always inspired by the work of those



CDR Ann M. MacDonald, left, the data management lead with the COVID Cell, and LCDR Stefanie Nochisaki, the COVID Cell officer in-charge, review notes at the Public Health & Behavioral Health Center, Camp Foster, Okinawa, Japan Dec. 1, 2020. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Ryan H. Pulliam)

who came before me as I was fortunate to have three prior SL's (**CAPT Denise Holcomb**, **CDR Misty Scheel** and **CAPT Carolyn Currie**) serving during my tenure. Having worked with all of them, it is no surprise to the exemplary manner in which this community has been forged. As we moved through the changes in the Nurse Corps and the military health system, the driving force for me has been listening to the fire and passion in the voices of the personnel that make up the Public Health nursing community. If you come across someone who has forgotten what it is to be inspired by their line of work, have them seek out a 1940 and ask them about Public Health. Good luck Tracy and Stef! The keys to this Ferrari are all yours.



LCDR Karen Downer, assigned to U.S. Naval Hospital (USNH) Naples, gives medical staff a brief on the Moderna coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine before they are inoculated onboard Naval Support Activity (NSA) Naples, Jan. 8, 2021. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Erika L. Kugler)

### *Excellence in Motion*



CDR Tracy Krauss, officer-in-charge at Washington Navy Yard Branch Medical Clinic, participates in NAVSEA Remembrance Run events with Patty Mac, a U.S. Navy working dog assigned to the clinic. (U.S. Navy photo by Elizabeth Kearns)

What a year for the Public Health Community as we have been working around the globe fighting COVID. As the newest Specialty Leader, I am privileged to be able to articulate our contribution to Navy Medicine's mission, both globally and on the home front. I would like to take the opportunity to say "Thank you" to **CDR Whiting** for his leadership over the past three years as Specialty Leader, and to congratulate LCDR Nochisaki on her selection as the Assistant Specialty Leader for Public Health Nurses. We are extremely proud of the 1940 community, and we will give our all to ensure its continued success.

Over the next three years I hope to focus on two important topics. The first is building Service Members' health equity. I believe we need to double down our focus on personal health, wellness, well-being, and resiliency to ensure members are at their peak performance and ready to meet the mission. Our community will work to advance healthy equity by driving broad prevention and mitigation strategies. For instance, we will partner with communities to access behavioral health, nutrition, and tailored health care for women. Second, we will grow our global capacity to ensure we have the resources and capabilities to respond to public health crises, whenever and wherever they may arise.

Through education and experience, Public Health nurses bring unique skill sets to the table since all of the 1940's gravitated to Public Health from one or more of the various Nurse Corps communities. If you are interested in joining an amazing community of public health professionals making a global impact, don't hesitate to reach out.~



## Community Update: Operational Nursing



Suzanne Fierros  
CDR, NC, USN  
Operational Specialty Leader

Brookes Williams  
CDR, NC, USN  
Assistant Specialty Leader



LT Payeur, HM3 Belmares, and  
HN Brambila secure a patient to  
the ground while the CH-53 Helo  
takes off/Released.

The Fleet Marine Force (FMF) has established new roles for the Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) at Medical Battalions (Med Bns) and continues to offer several non-traditional opportunities for nurses to serve in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). With the increase of nurses assigned to the Medical Battalions (Med Bn), it was clear there was an essential role missing: the CNO. Military Treatment Facilities have long understood the necessity of the CNO to develop long-range goals, objectives, and evaluation of nursing practice and knowledge, skills and abilities (KSAs) attainment and currency. But what does it take to become a Med Bn CNO? **LCDR Caitlin Workman** (2d Med Bn) and **CDR Hannah Starnes** (3d Med Bn) provided some insight into what prepared them to be two of the first CNOs and recommendations for others who are interested in following their lead.

Having broad operational experiences has been instrumental in understanding how to affect nursing development for a ready nursing force for the future fight. Med Bns are called on to provide wartime and peacetime nursing care. Nurses serving with Marine Corps units deploying for wartime missions and augmenting overseas disaster relief humanitarian missions are the more well-known nursing assignments. USMC units require more of nurses than just their clinical skill set. Nurses are used in the medical planning role preparing for medical civic actions such as Pacific Partnership or other missions supporting medical care in countries in need. Most recently, 2d Med Bn was called on for a humanitarian mission in the continental United States. The establishment of Task Force Quantico provided temporary housing, medical care, and support services for roughly 5000 displaced Afghans with only a few days notice. A very necessary trait for CNOs is to be highly effective communicators. Operational commanders rely on medical personnel to “speak their language” while relaying medical requirements and capabilities. CNOs are also tasked with the traditional duties of making sure nurses are supported clinically and administratively to excel in their career.

So, what else does the Marine Corps offer nurses? **CDR Danilo Garcia-Duenas** serves as the Clinical Subject Matter Expert/Doctrine Officer at Combat Development and Integration. This billet develops doctrine and a means for integrating medical capabilities throughout the Marine Air Ground Task Force and collaborates with allies around the world. As health services gaps are identified, the incumbent provides expert representation in working groups and administrative responses to develop requirements and solutions for equipping Navy medical personnel and aligning with the Marine Corps strategic vision. One needs to be interested in digging deep into policy and doctrine to direct the future of Marine Corps medical care. There is no medical capability untouched by this position! In order to be eligible for this billet, you must have earned Fleet Marine

Force Warfare Officer (FMFWO) designation and completed at least one tour with the Marine Corps. Preference is given to the completion of JPME-1.

**LCDR Nicholas Eighthy** is the Health Services Support (HSS) Integrator for USMC Training and Education Command. Policy and doctrine need to be translated from higher level guidance to setting the service-level requirements for training and readiness in the Marine Corps by way of the HSS Training and Readiness (T&R) Manual. This position stays abreast of the most current medical curriculum for programs such as Tactical Combat Casualty Care and Prolonged Casualty Care and leads the working group of subject matter experts in the establishment of collective and individual training events in the T&R Manual. The T&R Manual directs unit training requirements and provides the FMF with the same standards for training as those occurring in the formal schools. The HSS Integrator additionally communicates with the Office of the Medical Officer of the Marine Corps and the FMF to make certain all HSS training requirements are captured and maintained.



LT Aizik Landaverde, Emergency/Trauma Nurse, provides care to a simulated casualty during with the Bravo Surgical Company's Shock Trauma Platoon as part of the field exercise 'Bravo Bold'/Released.



## Community Update: Operational Nursing (cont')



LT Santha Nivas (Nurse Corps) triages a combat casualty and provides immediate, life-saving interventions prior to movement to the Shock Trauma System/Released.

**LT Andrew Masiello** is assigned to Field Medical Training Battalion –West (FMTB-W) as the Chief of Professional Services. During his time there, he has also served as the Academics Officer and Operations Officer. The FMTBs take the HSS T&R Manual and translate the individual events to a course of instruction for training officers and enlisted assigned to the FMF. A current initiative is integrating prolonged casualty care and fresh whole blood in the programs. The FMTBs work closely with the FMF ensuring the knowledge and skills taught at the schoolhouse best prepares medical personnel to support medical care in the FMF. In order to train students, this position cultivates instructor professional development, conducts specific medical-centric professional medical education and forms professional relationships with other commands to leverage their capabilities and improve our instruction. Serving in the role, nurses are eligible for the Master Trainer Specialist additional qualification designator and may be eligible for the 1903 or 3150 specialty code.

**CDR Marie Edwards-Smith** is serving in another unique billet available to nurses at Chemical Biological Incident Response Force

(CBIRF). This unit is a scalable, no-notice deployable unit. Preference for assignment to this billet is to have earned FMFWO designation. The operational mission of the medical element at CBIRF is to conduct triage, emergency medical care, and stabilization of casualties at any Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives incident site. Nurses are trained to monitor, perform reconnaissance, control contamination and decontamination of personnel while providing treatment of any physical and psychological injuries. The nurse assigned serves as the Incident Response Nurse for the entire Battalion as well as the Training Officer, developing, conducting, and participating in real life operations as well as all training exercises according to the T&R Manual.

Navy nursing is filled with many opportunities and exciting roles outside of traditional bedside care. For more information on any of these exciting opportunities which pave the future of greenside nursing, reach out to the operational detailer, the incumbent nurses, or your operational specialty leadership! ~



LT Dana Canaria, Critical Care Nurse, facilitates a simulated casualty scenario with CLB-3 corpsmen preparing a tactical evacuation to the Bravo Surgical Company, Shock Trauma Platoon/Released.



LT Reuer, LT Ready, HM3 Belmares, and HN Brambila loading a patient onto a CH-53 for EnRoute care Training after landing on a landing zone for pickup/Released.



LT Warsaw receives report from the holding section as part of the EnRoute care team/Released.







## Navy Surgeon General's Leadership Symposium (SGLS)



Navy Nursing Senior Leadership attended the annual Navy Surgeon General's Leadership Symposium (SGLS) – held in Falls Church, VA at BUMED on May 16-18, 2022. The intent of this opportunity is to inform Navy Medicine Leadership of strategic initiatives, illustrate the future state of Navy Medicine and provide attendees clear understanding of current and future operating environment and the organizational initiatives to meet them. This year's theme was **“Get Real, Get Better.”**



Pictured in Photo Left to Right: CAPT Pat Fitzpatrick, CAPT Thecly Scott, LCDR Rachel Bradshaw, CAPT Bob Hawkins, CAPT Jeremy Hawker, RDML Cynthia Kuehner, CAPT Paul Loesche, CAPT Rachel Lewis, CAPT Abigail Yablonsky, RDML Eric Peterson (RC), CAPT Paul Allen, CAPT Dagoberto Perez (RC), CAPT Annie Case, CAPT David Thomas, CAPT Virginia Blackman, CAPT Lonnie Hosea, CAPT Rebecca Zornado (RC)/Released.



## Navy Nurse Corps Specialty Leader Symposium and Chief Nursing Officer Orientation

---



Assistant Deputy Director  
Nurse Corps Policy and Practice  
Richard Lawrence, CAPT, NC, USN

The third annual Navy Nurse Corps Specialty Leader Symposium and Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) Orientation was held 14-17 March 2022 via a virtual platform. This event gathered current active and reserve component Specialty Leaders and Assistant Specialty Leaders, new CNOs, up and coming Nurse Corps officers and interns. The meeting represented one of the rare times where all current and future Nurse Corps leaders and interns, active and reserve, were together with the Senior Nurse Corps Leadership team to be provided orientation, updates, and strategic direction in their roles across the globe.

The four-day evolution provided critical strategic-level information to better prepare the 99 attendees in their leadership roles. Of the 42 speakers, some of the highlights included briefs from the Chief of BUMED, the Director of the Nurse Corps, the

Assistant Director of the Nurse Corps, the Deputy Director of the Nurse Corps, and the Force Master Chief of BUMED.

While there were numerous topics covered by Navy Medicine's subject matter experts, some particular topics of note were subspecialty code management, manpower and platform requirements, low-side operation plan review, credentialing and privileging actions, and presentations from the Clinical Nurse Specialist Advisory Board leaders and the Specialty Leader Teams. The last two sets of briefs are critical to communicating the successes, challenges, and risks the Nurse Corps faces as presented during the formal biannual briefs. The Nurse Corps has an incredible team of nurses representing all of our specialties who are passionate and driven to advance nursing practice and thought and identify potential opportunities.

This represents my last submission as the Assistant Deputy Director for Nurse Corps Policy and Practice. It has been an honor and a true privilege to have been selected for this position and represent the entire Nurse Corps as we continue our transition through these especially challenging times. The Nurse Corps office has worked extremely hard to engage throughout the Federal Nursing Services, as well as within the Navy and Marine Corps, to ensure your tireless dedication continues to be recognized and valued. While our office is small, it is a mighty, devoted team that I have been proud to have been a small part of. I cannot thank my colleagues enough and I will miss working with them, plus all of the great nurses and leaders I have had a chance to serve with while at BUMED.

Lastly, it is my distinct pleasure to introduce **CAPT (sel) Jill Maldarelli-Drey** as my replacement as the Assistant Director for Policy and Practice. She comes with a wealth of knowledge and experience, and we will begin turnover starting in May. She will fully assume the role at the end of July, and I know she will be able to not only continue to represent the entire Nurse Corps' policy and practice interests, but she will also continue to advance everything we do in our nursing practice.~







# Chief Nursing Officer/Specialty Leader Symposium Intern Experience

Submitted by: FY22 CNO/SL Symposium Leadership Interns

The Chief Nursing Officer/Specialty Leader Symposium provided an opportunity for six Nurse Interns to be selected to participate behind the scenes in the Microsoft Teams event, networking with senior leaders across the Nurse Corps and gaining an in-depth look at issues impacting the Nurse Corps and the various specialties. We had an opportunity to learn about a wide variety of executive level issues, including platforms, Manpower, the Strategic Goals, and many others. We also had opportunities to hear updates on each subspecialty, and to sit in on panels with senior leaders. Several of the Nurse Interns shared some of their thoughts and reflections at the conclusion of the symposium:

**LT Christopher Lambatan** felt that “The Chief Nursing Officer/Specialty Leader Symposium has been a tremendous experience. Seeing firsthand the collaboration, mentorship, and comradery between Nurse Corps leaders has been inspirational.”

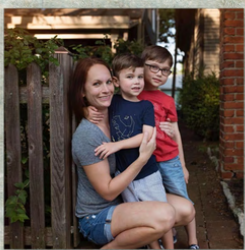
**LT Danielle Williams** added, “Listening to the tip of the Nurse Corps spear has been incredibly illuminating. I especially appreciated hearing RDML Kuehner personally discuss some of the daily challenges that I have faced. During the panel, many of the CNOs spoke of the importance of getting to know your staff, and how crucial CDBs are for career development. This allowed me to see [the importance of] this practice.”

**LT Elizabeth Lebold** said, “It has been an honor to be selected to work with and learn from the leaders in the Nurse Corps. I feel privileged to have been able to work so closely with CAPT Darling and CAPT Fox and am excited to continue my journey in the Nurse Corps, learning and working alongside so many amazing and dedicated people, doing so many exciting things around the world.”

**LCDR Whitney Lacelle** commented, “This symposium has left me overwhelmed with the sheer amount work and dedication being done throughout the Active and Reserve components of the Navy Nurse Corps. I feel honored to have been part of this symposium and am excited for what the future brings for our community!”

**LCDR India Kazadi** reflected on the week saying, “It was truly inspiring to see so many Navy nurse leaders together in one place. I witnessed firsthand the collaboration and mentorship required to reach higher goals and plan processes to build a stronger and efficient US Navy, collectively. I am grateful for the opportunity and left feeling humbled and validated. My choice to join the world’s greatest Navy was one of the best decisions I ever made.”

All of the Nurse Interns were in agreement that the busy week proved to be exciting and informative, and left us poised to continue growing, learning, and moving forward as leaders within the Navy Nurse Corps.~



“I used to play a lot of oboe, to the extent that one of my master’s degrees (neither one is in nursing) is in music, oboe performance!”  
~LT Elizabeth Lebold, NMRTC Portsmouth



“I am from Anchorage, Alaska & I taught 9th grade biology before I joined the Navy!”  
~LT Danielle Williams, 1st MED BN



“I ran a Half-Ironman while unknowingly pregnant!”~LCDR Whitney Lacelle, NMRTC JAX, JAC DET 1



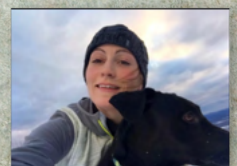
“I grew up working at my family owned Thai Restaurant in San Diego County!” ~LT Christopher Lambatan, NMRTC Lemoore



“I’m a licensed U.S. Soccer Referee!”~LCDR India Kazadi, NMFDC



“I commissioned on the USS Constitution in the Captain’s Quarters!”~LCDR Caroline Collins, EMF Bethesda





# NMRTC Portsmouth Nurse Residency Program Staying Strong



Liza Stone  
LCDR, NC, USN  
NMRTC-Portsmouth, VA  
Nurse Residency Program Director

ation, and simulation training hosted by the Nursing Enhanced Skills and Simulation Training (NESST) department. **RN Rebecca Kiser** and **Mr. Jeff Filler** from NESST with **Ms. Kim Gunzelman** support nurse residents in training for code blue, blood and blood products transfusion protocols, IRR, sepsis recognition/interventions, and various technical skills from learning new equipment and familiarization with local processes and protocols (low volume-high risk interventions). ICU Clinical Nurse Specialist **LCDR Meghann Wilson** and Medical Surgical Clinical Nurse Specialist **LT Benjamin Fite** consistently engage with nurse residents during simulation training sessions as facilitators and subject matter experts (SME) among many other volunteer facilitators who pro-



April 15, 2022 - "Nurse Residents at Simulation Training", ENS Speckman practicing patient assessment skills on Juno while fellow residents look on, Left to Right: LTJG Wiltshire, Juno the Manikin (patient on the bed), LTJG Burling, ENS Speckman, ENS Thompson, & ENS Ross. Photo taken by LCDR Liza Stone/Released.

vide their time and expertise to prepare new nurses to provide care safely and competently. The program recently gained custody of Juno, a modern clinical skills mannequin designed for task training to medium fidelity simulation training using advanced patient care scenarios preparing nurse residents for safe clinical practice.



Dec 10, 2021 - Building 1 Front steps, "Nurse Residents on Ugly Sweater Day", Residents enjoying the Nurse Corps Ugly Sweater day and photoshoot, Left to Right: Bottom Row: ENS Burrows, LTJG Vasquez, ENS Mapeso; 2ND row, ENS Laviena, ENS Markey, ENS Douzos; TOP Row: ENS Lebeau, and ENS Nelson. Photo taken by LCDR Liza Stone/Released.



Nov 19, 2021 - Turning over the Bull Ensign from ENS Yert to ENS Little and turning over the Boot Ensign from ENS Worsley to ENS Nelson, Left to Right: ENS Yert, CAPT McMullen, ENS Little, ENS Nelson, ENS Worsley. Photo taken by Mrs. Kim Brightharp/Released.

As a shared resource, Juno is being prepared to provide multi-disciplinary team training for nurses, doctors, and Corpsmen at the hospital, developing scenarios for both adult and pediatric patients, thanks to **LCDR Erica Nicoletti** and **Dr. Josh Patterson**. In addition, the residency program partnered with **LCDR Shawna Grover** and her team in helping nurse residents complete CITI training with future goals of supporting nurses in research and direct practice improvement (DPI) projects, developing research and PICOT questions while in residency. Selected projects will be presented at the Nursing Evidence-based Practice (EBP) Council meetings for nurses to receive feedback and for EBP SMEs to provide support and mentorship towards completion. NMRTC-P Chief Nursing Officer **CAPT Laura McMullen** and Assistant Directorate of Nursing Services **CDR Harley Ragle** are always available to provide support and encouraging words to the nurse residents to welcome them as they begin their careers (adventures) as Navy Nurse Corps officers. To date, 75 nurse residents completed the program in FY 2021 and the program maintained ANCC Practice Transition Accredited Program (PTAP) certification for calendar year 2022. We continue to fine-tune the program to maintain and sustain relevance as well as consistently meet criteria for current evidence-based practice models of nursing care. It truly takes a village, and at NMRTC-P, the Nurse Residency Program is growing and staying strong!~

Nurses who are new to the Nurse Corps face unique challenges with role transitions and enculturation to become proficient nurses with socializations to the daily operations of military treatment facility (MTF) platforms. The residency program at NMRTC Portsmouth is designed to provide opportunities to improve nurses' clinical competence and confidence with varying levels of experience from novice to expert in subspecialties such as Critical Care, Operating Room, and Emergency Medicine. It is a six-month program for novice nurses and an abbreviated three-month program for experienced nurses. Residents progress through Phase I: Orientation and Integration, Phase II: Deployment, and Phase III: Permanent Assignment. This program maximizes learning by incorporating lectures, presentations, seminars, simulation, and competency-based clinical experiences throughout the program and during permanent unit assignment orientation.

With nursing-specific skills, the program also incorporates multi-disciplinary team communication training, general military training, professional development, and clinical presentations supplemented by fundamental courses such as Nursing Basic Leadership (NBL), Nursing Orient-





# Celebrating our Nurses!!

## Happy Birthday Nurse Corps!



### SUBJ/NAVY NURSE CORPS 114th BIRTHDAY MESSAGE//

1. It is my great pleasure to congratulate and recognize the more than 4,000 dedicated, battle-proven, and highly specialized officers of the Navy Nurse Corps, both Active Duty and Reserve, on the occasion of your 114<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
2. It is no surprise that the World Health Organization declared 2020 and 2021 International Years of the Nurse. This honor recognizes the powerful impact, sacrifice, and steadfast devotion of nurses globally in the world's fight against the deadly Coronavirus Disease (COVID) 2019 pandemic. Navy nurses have been a vital part of this effort.
3. Over the last two years, the Navy Nurse Corps has fearlessly demonstrated their Readiness, Relevance, and Resilience by deploying 16 specialties to lead national Community Vaccination Centers and Medical Readiness Teams to augment our nation's rural health systems. They also supported Navy Medical Treatment Facilities - ashore and afloat - in the care of our Sailors, Marines, and Civilians. Navy Nurses simultaneously deployed in support of Operation Allies Welcome (OAW), providing healthcare to displaced, vulnerable allies. Since Fiscal Year 2020, over 900 Navy nurses have deployed in direct support of COVID Defense Support of Civil Authorities Operations, Vaccination Support Teams, and OAW.
4. For the 20<sup>th</sup> year in a row, Nursing was named the Most Trusted Profession in the annual Gallup Honesty and Ethics poll. Military Officers were also in the top five. A double win, in my book, for Navy Nurses and I could not be more proud.
5. Thank you for your leadership, expertise, and monumental contributions to our One Navy Medicine team. I am honored to serve alongside all Navy Nurses serving valiantly worldwide. I offer my warmest regards and sincerest wishes for a very happy 114<sup>th</sup> Birthday!
6. Released by Rear Admiral Bruce L. Gillingham, Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery//

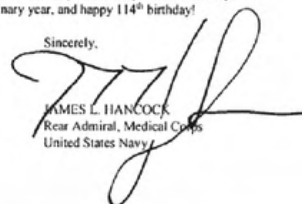
Dear Admiral Kuehner,

On behalf of all active and reserve physicians of the United States Navy Medical Corps, I am honored to congratulate you and the Navy Nurse Corps on celebrating your one hundred and fourteenth birthday.

The Medical Corps could not be more honored to serve alongside the talented and dedicated nurses who work tirelessly on the frontlines in every environment within Navy Medicine. The Navy Nurse Corps has continued to lead the way in professional practice, operational readiness, and transformational leadership with every challenge. Whether deployed in support of COVID-19, Operation Allies Welcome, or on operational platforms, Navy Nurses are legendary for their diligence and devotion in all conditions. The Nurse Corps has been critical to the success of Navy Medicine in both wartime and peace, and I am proud to serve next to my Nurse Corps colleagues.

Thank you for all you do to support our Sailors and Marines across the globe and for the sacrifices that you, and every member of the Navy Nurse Corps, make each day. Congratulations on another extraordinary year, and happy 114<sup>th</sup> birthday!

Sincerely,

  
JAMES L. HANCOCK  
Rear Admiral, Medical Corps  
United States Navy

Dear Rear Admiral Cynthia A. Kuehner,

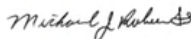
For 114 years, the Navy Nurse Corps has committed itself to the care and well-being of others. However, nurses have been serving the Navy long before establishing the Navy Nurse Corps. During the Civil War, nurses stationed aboard the USS Red Rover dedicated their lives to cause and country. And throughout history, compassion has been a common trait, a driving force among nurses everywhere. From the Red Rover or the "Lady with the Lamp" to the front lines of the fight against COVID today, Nurse Corps Officers continue to put the needs of others ahead of their own. Navy Medicine is blessed to have these professionals in our ranks.

On behalf of the Hospital Corps, we are fortunate to learn from your seemingly innate skill and empathy to care for our warfighters and our families. Your wisdom and experience, combined with the innumerable instances in which you've demonstrated technique, shaped our capability. However, despite our decades of mentorship and teamwork, we are not the true beneficiaries of your compassionate nature.

Wherever people are in need or whatever the ailment, nurses are present to provide assistance. And it is in this moment, alongside the sick and the injured, you shine the brightest. This is the moment that your humanity and attentiveness come to bear. This is when you give your all to make a difference, and for this, we cannot thank you enough.

Ma'am, you and the rest of the Nurse Corps are the foundation of our One Navy Medicine Team. And we wish you the most heartfelt, Happy Birthday.

Sincerely,



M. J. ROBERTS  
FORCM(FMF/SW/AW), USN  
Force Master Chief  
Director, Hospital Corps


Dear Admiral Kuehner,

On behalf of the entire Navy Dental Corps, it is my pleasure to wish you and all the exceptional members of the Navy Nurse Corps a happy 114th Birthday!

Since the foundation of your Corps in 1908, Navy nurses have selflessly and courageously answered the call wherever and whenever needed, providing world class care for Sailors, Marines, and families around the world. Whether deployed or on base, at sea or ashore, Navy Nurse Corps officers are always on the front lines of providing world class care to the Warfighter and hope for all in need. This year has once again demonstrated your Corps' incredible legacy of caring, commitment and dedication and the impact you have had on our Navy, Marine Corps and Nation is beyond measure.

We in the Dental Corps are most proud to call you our colleagues. My warmest personal regards to all the members of the Navy Nurse Corps as you celebrate yet another anniversary of unparalleled service. The Dental Corps salutes you!

Sincerely,

  
R. FREEDMAN  
Rear Admiral, Dental Corps  
United States Navy  
Chief, Dental Corps

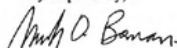
Dear Admiral Kuehner,

On behalf of the Navy Medicine Civilian Corps, I offer my sincerest congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the 114<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Navy Nurse Corps.

Talented and devoted, the Nurse Corps officers serving our Navy and Marine Corps families around the globe represent "the best" our great nation has to offer. Far-forward deployed or in-garrison, their dedication and expertise practiced safely, compassionately and innovatively continue to significantly elevate the standard of care and simultaneously increase survivability of the warfighter. The Nurse Corps continues to be an essential component of Navy Medicine while serving as a critical enabler to ensuring mission accomplishment across multiple complex and challenging readiness domains.

I and my 10,700 Navy Medicine Civilian Corps colleagues remain so very proud serving with you and the men and women of the Navy Nurse Corps. Happy Birthday!

Very respectfully,



Mark O. Boman  
Director, Navy Medicine Civilian Corps

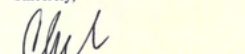
Dear Admiral Kuehner,

On behalf of the Medical Service Corps, I am honored to extend my sincerest congratulations to the men and women of the Nurse Corps as you all celebrate your 114<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

For 114 years, the brave officers of the Nurse Corps have led Navy Medicine in delivering exceptional care and leadership in support of our warfighters and those we are honored to serve. You have ensured that we are the world's premier medically ready force. With the highest skills and deepest compassion, the men and women of the Nurse Corps are the perfect personification of projecting medical power in support of Naval superiority. Those of us who have had the privilege to work and serve with you can truly attest to your commitment to high-quality care and the readiness of our forces.

As you celebrate your achievements and reflect on your accomplishments, the Medical Service Corps thanks you for your sacrifice, partnership, and commitment. Happy birthday and warm wishes on your 114 years of distinguished service to our great Navy!

Sincerely,

  
T.H. WEBER  
Rear Admiral, Medical Service Corps  
United States Navy





# Celebrating our Nurses!!

## Happy Birthday Nurse Corps!!



Rear Admiral Kuehner, Captain Jessica Beard, and Ensign Emilee Fierro carry out tradition by cutting this year's cake signifying the passing of knowledge and traditions from one generation to the next. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class Kurtis A. Hatcher)



Navy Nurse Corps Front Office with RDML Kuehner, (From left to right) Navy Nurse Corps CAPT Kelley Fox, Nurse Corps Reserve Affairs Officer, CAPT Paul Loesche, Deputy Director, RDML Kuehner, Director, CAPT Julie Darling, Nurse Corps Career Planner, CDR Jill Maldarelli-Drey, Nurse Corps Policy and Practice, (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class Kurtis A. Hatcher)



CDR Teresa Dent, Deputy Director for Nursing Services, and CAPT Jessica Beard, Director for Nursing Services pose with the guest speaker, RDML Cynthia Kuehner, Director of the Navy Nurse Corps. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class Kurtis A. Hatcher)



Navy Nurses from NMRTC Bethesda join Rear Admiral Kuehner and Brigadier General Davis on stage following the ceremony. Letters from the different Navy Corps Chief are on display in the foreground. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class Kurtis A. Hatcher)



Navy Nurse Corps Front Office, (From left to right) CDR Jill Maldarelli-Drey, Nurse Corps Policy and Practice, CAPT Julie Darling, Nurse Corps Career Planner, CAPT Paul Loesche, Deputy Director, Navy Nurse Corps, CAPT Kelley Fox, Nurse Corps Reserve Affairs Officer (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class Kurtis A. Hatcher)



Lt Alicia Sacks and Lt Cmdr Lindsay Visser attended the same undergraduate nursing program and take a moment to spend time with Angus, BUMED Facility Dog, after the Nurse Corps Birthday ceremony. (U.S. Navy photo by Lt Cmdr Nathan Aranas)









# Celebrating our Nurses!!



## When others are Weak, They are Strong – Nurse Corps at 114

Article by: Douglas H Stutz, NHB/NMRTC Bremerton Public Affairs Officer

Over the past two years, almost half of Navy Medicine Readiness Training Command Bremerton staff who deployed on COVID Medical Response Teams were from one distinctive group; Navy Nurse Corps.

*“When others are weak, they are strong,”* stated **Lt. Cmdr. John Tarr**, Navy Chaplain Corps, in offering a blessing of hands during NMRTC Bremerton’s recognition of the Navy Nurse Corps 114th birthday, May 13, 2022.

According to compiled statistics by Navy Medicine, Nurse Corps officers have responded to mission requirements and operational deployments in 2020 and 2021 sending nearly 50 Nurse Corps personnel on a number of aircraft

carriers, Fleet Surgical Teams and hospital ship(s), USNS Comfort (T-AH 20) and USNS Mercy (T-AH 19). There have also been approximately 140 Nurse Corps officers attached to 1st, 2nd and 3rd Marine Corps medical battalions, not including those tabbed – many at the last minute – to respond to the pandemic and help render aid to those in need.

*“In the past two years alone, over 900 active and reserve Navy Nurses, approximately 24 percent of our total force, deployed in support of COVID operations and Operation Allies Welcome,”* wrote **Rear Adm. Cynthia Kuehner**, Navy Nurse Corps director, who counts Naval Hospital Bremerton amongst her prior duty stations.

There are currently approximately 2,700 active duty and 1,050 reservist Navy Nurse Corps officer in 17 different specialties assigned throughout the Navy and Marine Corps, including approximately 65 Nurse Corps officers and 70 civilian nurses at NHB.

The Navy Nurse Corps birthday was a culmination of an entire week of celebration with National Nurses Week, May 6-12, honoring all active duty, civilian and contractor nurses at NHB/NMRTC Bremerton. The entire seven-day span is especially symbolic with the birthday of

Florence Nightingale (1820-1910), considered the founder of modern nursing, on May 12, and followed a day later by the Navy Nurse Corps birthday.



Here’s the scoop...it’s National Nurses Week, May 6-12, 2022! Navy Nurse Corps officers, civil service and contractor nurses at Naval Hospital Bremerton provided an ice cream social as part of their heartfelt thanks to all nurses assigned to the command – as well as those they work with and for – in conjunction with the annual celebration, culminating with the Nurse Corps 114th birthday on May 13, a day after the birthday of Florence Nightingale (1820-1910), the founder of modern nursing (Official Navy photo by Douglas H Stutz, NHB/NMRTC Bremerton public affairs officer).



A cut above...wrapping up recognition of National Nurses Week, May 6-12, with the Navy Nurse Corps 114th birthday, May 13, 2022, the most experienced and youngest Nurse Corps officers participated in the traditional cake-cutting portion of the ceremony. CAPT Patrick Fitzpatrick, NHB director and NMRTC Bremerton commanding officer, who initially enlisted in the Navy Reserves as a Seabee from Missoula, Montana, in 1992, was joined by Lt. j.g. Samantha Dahl, a Florida native approaching four years of duty and recently assigned to NMRTC Bremerton (Official Navy photo by Douglas H Stutz, NHB/NMRTC Bremerton public affairs officer).



The entire week featured daily events, including an ice cream and popcorn social, continental breakfast offerings, tailored virtual training seminars and numerous Blessing of the Hands services to accommodate all shifts of the staff nurses.

*“Thanks to all those who put together all the little things to recognize Navy Nurse Corps and nurses,”* said **CDR Terri Jandron**, assistant chief nursing officer.

Along with the heartfelt handwritten letter from Kuehner, correspondence from all other Navy Medicine Corps chiefs were also read aloud, including from **Rear Adm. Bruce Gillingham**, Navy Surgeon General and Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery who thanked the Nurse Corps for their dedication, service and sacrifice.





# Celebrating our Nurses!!



**When others are Weak, They are Strong – Nurse Corps at 114 (cont')**

*"It is no surprise that the World Health Organization declared 2020 and 2021 International Year of the nurse. This honor recognizes the powerful impact, sacrifice and steadfast devotion of nurses globally in the world's fight against the deadly Coronavirus Disease 2019 pandemic. Navy nurses have been a vital part of this effort,"* Gillingham shared.

*"For the 20th year in a row, nursing was named the most trusted profession in the annual Gallup Honesty and Ethics poll. Military officers were also in the top five. A double win, in my book, for Navy Nurses and I could not be more proud,"* added Gillingham.

After all letters were read, the most experienced and youngest Nurse Corps officers participated in the traditional cake-cutting portion of the ceremony. **CAPT Patrick Fitzpatrick**, NHB director and NMRTC Bremerton commanding officer, who initially enlisted in the Navy Reserves as a Seabee from Missoula, Montana, in 1992, was joined by **Lt. j.g. Samantha Dahl**, a Florida native approaching four years of duty, recently assigned to NMRTC Bremerton from Naval Medical Center San Diego.

## PLATFORMS OF NMFP



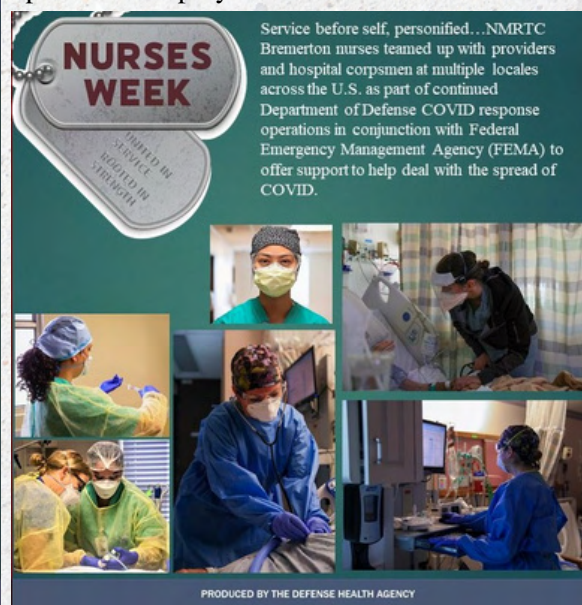
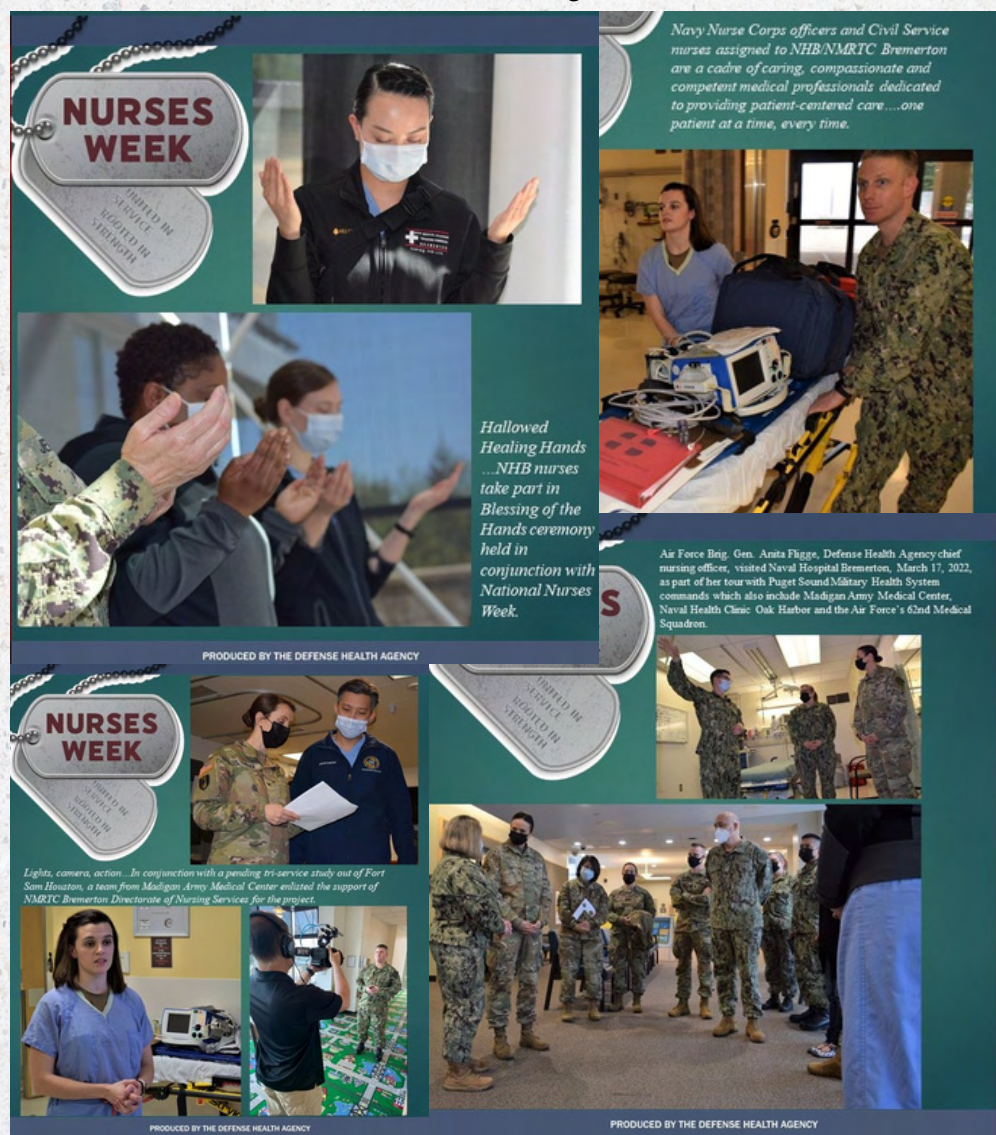
The nearly 4,000 active duty and reservist Navy Nurse Corps officers in 17 different specialties are a cadre of caring, compassionate and competent medical professionals dedicated to providing patient-centered care. As a 'Platform' they have deployed recently as COVID Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) teams, deploying on short notice to support FEMA's request for assistance. The short and skinny? NURSES=AWESOME



*"I couldn't think of a better job than nursing in the military. I always wanted to help others,"* explained Dahl, a University of Central Florida graduate who credits one of her professors with prior Navy Nurse Corps experience with kindling her interest to get where she is today.

Nurse Corps officers like Dahl follow in the footsteps of Fitzpatrick, handling a host of specialties as part of their overall duties, including Family Nurse Practitioner, Executive Medicine, Nurse Anesthetist, Clinical Nurse, Perioperative Nursing, Maternal Child, Ambulatory, Medical-Surgical, Critical Care, and Pediatric nursing.

As well as continue to answer the call for responding to mission requirements and operational deployments.~







# Celebrating our Nurses!!



## Navy Nurse Corps Birthday aboard USNS Mercy



1st Row – CAPT Melissa Farino, CDR Merideth Croft, LCDR John Chiong, ENS Gemelin Lozada, LTJG Alicia Reilly, LTJG Olivia Cook, LTJG Angel Henry, LTJG Haley Ehrhardt, ENS Juliette Martin, LTJG Elizabeth Rusiewicz, ENS Kirsten Donohue

2nd Row - LTJG Abby Laughman, LCDR Amanda Jack, LTJG Pauline Gachalian, LCDR Nguyet Allbaugh, LT Joyce Pascual, LTJG Rebekah Mayo, LT Tasha Wilson, ENS Danielle Cox, LT Bernadette Vingerhoets, LT Claire Piccirilli, LTJG Serena Yesenofski, ENS Brooke Riordan, ENS Miranda George, LT Rowena Benedictos

3rd Row – LTJG Olivia Miller, LCDR Kimberly Hendricks, LTJG Adrian Salcido, LTJG Raphael Holthaus, ENS Hayley Wood-Beatty, ENS Meryn Holstlander, ENS Lauren May, LT Tiffany Bradley, LTJG Celeste Arteaga, ENS Shaun Farrington, LT Kimberly Kozlowski, ENS Karl Romero, ENS Victor Potente, LTJG Jessica Jennings, LT Molly Clark, LT Milena Marshall

4th Row – LT James Jacob, LCDR Kenneth Sierleja, ENS Jose Mendezambriz, LT Maciej Wartak, LT Gregg Miller, LCDR Breda Jenkins, LCDR Jentry Vranian-Wade, ENS Galen Thomas, LCDR Eric Banker, LT Nicole Roddy, LT Elizabeth Jeffers, ENS Nina Chism

PACIFIC OCEAN (May 16, 2022) – U.S. Navy Nurses take a photo on the fantail aboard Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) in celebration of the 114th Navy Nurse Corps Birthday while underway for Pacific Partnership 2022. Now in its 17th year, Pacific Partnership is the largest annual multinational humanitarian assistance and disaster relief preparedness mission conducted in the Indo-Pacific. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Drace Wilson)

U.S. Navy Nurses celebrated the 114th Navy Nurse Corps (NC) Anniversary aboard Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) while underway for Pacific Partnership 2022 (PP22).

Letters from the Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery; Director, Navy Nurse Corps; and Director, Navy Medical Corps, amongst other high ranking Navy Medicine leaders, were read by Navy nurses embarked aboard the largest hospital ship in the world.

U.S. Navy **Captain Melissa Farino**, Mercy's chief nursing officer, appreciated the accolades the 114-year-old group received from Navy Medicine leadership.

*"In Navy Medicine we are one team all working together on a common mission; to provide the highest quality care to our Sailors, Marines, retirees and their families in very diverse environments both ashore and at sea,"* said Farino. *"Nurses have proven time and again their resiliency especially during the recent pandemic and it is always appreciated to know our colleagues recognize the NC for their key efforts and our contribution to this fantastic team."*

More than 4,000 active duty and reserve nurses make up the Navy Nurse Corps. Roughly ninety of them are embarked aboard Mercy in support of Pacific Partnership 2022 (PP22) to provide and support patient care while working side-by-side host and partner nations in more than 20 specialties.

*"This is my second hospital ship mission and I feel incredibly lucky to have the opportunity to participate in the exchange of medical treatment and educational exercise with these wonderful people and their nations,"* said **Lt. Bernadette Viingerhoets**, a Navy Nurse with Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command (NMRTC) San Diego.

Navy nurses deploy in support of diverse missions including humanitarian assistance efforts where they aim to provide the best care our nation can offer ashore and afloat. Mercy, a 1,000-bed hospital ship, is PP22's mission platform. Mercy is currently underway for PP22. Now in its 17th year, Pacific Partnership is the largest annual multinational humanitarian assistance and disaster relief preparedness mission conducted in the Indo-Pacific.~



# Naval Medical Leader and Professional Development Command (NMLPDC at WRNMMC) celebrate our 114th NC Birthday/Nurses Week.



Maria Fuentebella  
CDR, NC, USN

Head, NC Graduate Programs  
Naval Medical Leader & Professional Development Command (NMLPDC)

Navy nurses are thriving under the leadership of **CAPT Rhonda O. Hinds** at the Naval Medical Leader and Professional Development Command (NMLPDC). The nurses at NMLPDC are making a difference and leading the way in professional practice, transformational leadership and high-quality care in support of our warfighters and the readiness of our forces. In celebration of our Navy Nurse Corps 114th Birthday and nurses across the globe, we honor these outstanding Nurse Corps Officers. Meet our NMLPDC Nurse Corps Officers below.

**CDR Lillian W. White** is the Program Manager and is an Accredited Approver Program Director of Continuing Medical/Nurse Education (CME/CNE) for Navy Medicine.

She oversees the development, design, and revision of appropriate directives and instructions governing CME/CNE within the enterprise.

She has completed two comprehensive accreditation studies ensuring Navy Medicine programs are compliant. A high functioning team with **LCDR Angela R. Healy**,



BETHESDA, MD (13May2022): Naval Medical Leader & Professional Development Command (NMLPDC) Commanding Officer, CAPT Rachel Myaing (center) celebrates the 114th Nurse Corps Birthday with the NMLPDC and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) nurses! Pictured left to right: CDR Bettina Zolwazi, CAPT Rhonda Hinds, CAPT Rachel Myaing (NMLPDC CO), CDR Lillian White, and CDR Maria Fuentebella/Released.

Assistant Program Manager of the CME/CNE, the department is busy managing and processing peer reviews and approving applications in support of over 7,000 healthcare professionals across Navy Medicine. At the Naval Postgraduate Dental School (NPDS), **CDR Bettina A. Solwazi** is the sole nurse stationed at NPDS. She is the Sterile Processing Department Head and the Sedation Nurse for Oral Maxillofacial Surgery. She oversees the most critical component of the school, surgical instrumentation sterilization, supporting 19 clinical departments and over 200 faculty, staff and dental residents. Her expertise and leadership ensures the attainment of Graduate Dental Education KSA requirements and fleet capabilities in support of warfighter readiness.

Lastly, **CDR Maria Fuentebella**, is the Head of the Nurse Corps Graduate Programs. She provides central management and oversight of all aspects of graduate and professional education and training for Navy Nurse Corps officers in accordance with Bureau of Medicine directives and essential requirements of civilian accrediting agencies. She identifies training needs and appropriate educational approaches to meet Nurse Corps billet requirements and performance needs of individual Nurse Corps officers. Her position exercises over all supervisory and administrative responsibility for 133 Nurse Corps Officers across 11 training programs. Ready, Relevant, Resilient nurses! Happy 114th Birthday Navy Nurse Corps! ~





# NMRTC Portsmouth Celebrates Our 114th Nurse Corps Birthday

*Submitted by: LT Nube Macancela, NMRTC Portsmouth*

Pictured to right: In keeping with Navy Nurse Corps Birthday tradition, **CAPT Nancy Wilson**, most senior nurse, and **ENS Christina Ross**, most junior nurse, cut the first piece of cake/Released.

Pictured below: Naval Medical Center nurses gather with Commanding Officer, **CAPT Shelley Perkins**, MC (far left) and **CMDCM Michele L. Sullivan** (far right) to celebrate our Navy Nurse Corps 114th Birthday!

The week of events, planned by **LT Michelle Indiano** (Chair, Professional Nurses' Association (PNA)); pictured below - bottom row, third from the left), **LCDR Terry Brown**, **LT Shatara Mackey**, **RN Zarah Servidad**, **LTJG Ara Kim**, and **ENS Marissa Raia**, included a nurses vs. chiefs kickball game, massage therapy sessions, Yoga by the water, an ice-cream social, Chaplain's Blessing of the Hands, and Nurses Ball.~



For these and more photos from Nurses Week, please see the [Naval Medical Center Portsmouth Facebook Page](#)





# NMRTC San Diego Celebrates Nurses Week/ NC Birthday!

Article by: LTJG Lizamarie Ducusin

“United in service, rooted in strength” were the words that set the theme for Nurses Week 2022 (May 6 – May 13, 2022). Since the establishment of the Navy Nurse Corps in 1908 with the Sacred 20, nurses from diverse backgrounds and with different levels of nursing experiences have given the Navy the strength to accomplish military medical missions that were assigned to our medical team.

The nurses at Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command San Diego have demonstrated their strength and unity over the past two years. Our Nurse Corps has been trained to adapt to situations that require certain skillsets and be ready to deploy at a moment’s notice. They have been sent on deployments throughout the nation to help hospitals with COVID-19 outbreaks and on the USNS

MERCY for humanitarian efforts with the Pacific Partnership. As difficult of a time that was, our nurses, whether deployed or at NMRTC, were resilient and resourceful in the situations they were placed while remaining compassionate and empathetic to the patients they cared for. To celebrate both our active duty and civilian nurses, The Nurses Association at NMRTC San Diego planned activities during Nurses Week to appreciate the hard work and dedication they have made to keep our hospital operational while providing support to the different medical missions throughout the US and the world.

To jumpstart the festivities, the DAISY awards ceremony was held on May 6 to recognize nurses who were nominated by their peers, patients, and/or family on the extraordinary care they provided. The Fisher House graciously donated an ice cream truck to

show their appreciation during the ice cream social on May 9. **CAPT Mark Thomas**, Chief Nursing Officer at NMRTC San Diego, visited the Branch clinics in the San Diego area on May 10, along with **Chaplain Gaston**, and two members of the Nurses Association, **LT Dehussa Urbietta** (Pediatric clinic) and **LTJG Lizamarie Ducusin** (ICU), to bring the celebration of the Navy Nurse Corps birthday to our nurses who were not able to celebrate with us at the hospital. Other activities during the week included Blessing of the Hands by our chaplains, a coffee cart that provided coffee and snacks, a pizza sale, and a silent auction. Gift baskets were assembled by Unit Practice Council and were auctioned during the entire week.



CAPT Mark Thomas, Senior Nursing Executive, DNS, speaking at Navy Nurse Corps birthday celebration/Released.

On Friday, May 13, nurses gathered to celebrate the Navy Nurse Corps birthday. The Director of the Nurse Corps, DHA Nursing Officer, and the Navy Surgeon General wrote letters thanking the Nurse Corps for their dedication, service, and sacrifice. These letters were read by three of our active-duty nurses, **CDR Judy Hanhila**, **LT Cynthia Holte**, and **LT Sarilyn Escobar**. **LT Elizabeth Bracewell**, **LT Daniela Jenkins**, and **LT Zechariah Sams** gave their accounts of the comradery among the nurses, physicians, and respiratory therapists during their various taskers to Ozark, AL, Spokane, WA, St. Louis, MO, and Farmington,



Traditional cutting of the cake by the most senior and junior nurse at NMRTC San Diego. CAPT Jeffrey Bledsoe, RDML Eric Peterson, & ENS Julia Thomas/Released.

NC. CAPT Thomas thanked the nurses under his watch for their hard work and dedication over the past two years. **RDML Eric Peterson** was the guest speaker at the ceremony. He spoke of the 3 R’s: **Readiness, Resilience, and Relevance**- how at this moment in time we will need to be ready more than ever. To end the wonderful celebration of our nurses, **CAPT Jeffrey Bledsoe** and **ENS Julia Thomas**, who were the most experienced and youngest officers of the Nurse Corps at NMRTC San Diego, participated in the traditional cake-cutting portion of the ceremony.

While Nurses Week showcased the nursing staff at NMRTC San Diego, the work by our nurses does not stop. We are continually striving to meet the needs of our patients and the Navy. “United in service, rooted by strength” spoke volumes of how military nurses worked together and took care of each other through difficult times. By continuing to be ready to tackle and remain resilient to any challenge, the relevance of the Navy Nurse Corps to the military medical community will be of teamwork, resourcefulness, education, and empathy.~





# Reserve Navy Nurse Corps Making an Impact in Guantanamo Bay

Submitted by: CAPT Lynne Blankenbeker and CDR Evangeleine Bates



Navy Nurse Corps officers are making an impact while onboard Naval Station Guantanamo, Bay and within U.S. Naval Hospital Guantanamo Bay (USNH GB), Cuba. More than 16 Reserve Component (RC) and 30 Active Component (AC) Nurse Corps officers stationed at USNH GB come together to train as one team, one fight.

The Training and Staff Education and Training Department came together to bridge the gap between the two groups with outstanding results. The teams organized 23 educational classes, with 87 students for the RC and AC staff onboard USNH GB. Courses offered varied from Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) to Preventative Medicine Courses. Other participants were from Army, Navy and Air Force services and included Navy Hospital Corpsmen, Army and Air Force Medics. The Nurse Corps officers represented a wide spectrum of specialty practice areas to include Medical Surgical, Operating Room, and Intensive Care and Emergency Trauma nurses.

Ultimately, these training evolutions provided an ideal opportunity for the RC and AC Nurse Corps officers to meet, train and work together to maximize joint readiness. *"The nurses assigned to Guantanamo Bay excel in a variety of roles across the installation and the operational platform,"* said **CAPT Dale Ramirez**, Commanding Officer, USNH GB. The Active Component nurses cover every nursing aspect at USNH GB while the Reserve Component nurse's mission is focused on the delivery of care in an operational setting. The nurses fill traditional clinical roles as well as a whole host of non-traditional roles from bedside care, case management to education/training and executive medicine. Regardless of where the nurses are assigned, the collaborative relationship is instrumental in ensuring the highest level of training, care delivery and career development.~



Tactical Combat Casualty Care Training (TCCC)



# Meet Warrior Canine Connection's Newest Namesake - Beadle

Beadle is named in honor of United States Navy Captain Annette Beadle, Ret.

Navy Captain Annette Beadle's interest in nursing began in high school. Serving in the military was an added attraction, as it provided an additional layer of service. Inspired by her uncle's service in the Navy, Captain Beadle was inspired to join.

Captain Beadle held a wide variety of clinical and leadership assignments in inpatient settings in both the States as well as overseas, during her 30-year career. Captain Beadle's operational assignments included Operation Desert Storm, Fleet Surgical Team and Medical Operations Officer, Continuing Promise 2009, and the USNS COMFORT.

Captain Beadle was the first Deputy Commander of Nursing at the Fort Belvoir Community Hospital and ultimately ended her distinguished career in the highly prestigious and coveted billet as Deputy Director of the Navy Nurse Corps.

"Captain Beadle has given so much of herself to the Navy Nurse Corps," shared a friend. "She has guided too numerous to count careers through her mentorship, caring, and example of selfless service. Captain Beadle was inspired by the Canine Service animals at National Naval Medical Center when she served there. She



saw first-hand the power of healing that animals provide in healthcare. When she arrived at Fort Belvoir Community Hospital, she worked tirelessly to bring the Pet Therapy Program there in order to provide that amazing type of healing for the patients and staff."

Captain Beadle's love for animals has been evident to all who know her. Throughout the years, she has provided a loving home for 17 rescue animals. In her retirement, Captain Beadle took her passion for patient care and incorporating animals as part of healing a step further, when she earned her

License as a Veterinary Technician. It is with great pride that we name WCC's Beadle in honor of United States Navy Captain Annette Beadle, Ret.~

#FurTheLoveOfVeterans

Source: [WCC's FaceBook Page](#)

[www.warriorcanineconnection.org](http://www.warriorcanineconnection.org)



Submitted by: CAPT Julie Darling, NC Career Planner



# Strong Nurse Presence at NR EMF Camp Pendleton

*Submitted by: CAPT Johanna Mills and CDR Evangeleine Bates*

Expeditionary Medical Facility Camp Pendleton (EMF CP) Reserve Component successfully conducted its Operational Readiness Evaluation (ORE) at the Navy Expeditionary Medical Training Institute (NEMTI), Camp Pendleton, from August 14-28, 2021, thanks to the hard dedication of motivated Nurse Corps officers. This two-week evolution included the building of a seven wing, 50 bed EMF, didactic simulation and classroom training, and a one-day testing evolution with a mass casualty exercise that resulted in EMF CP achieving Tier 1 readiness starting on October 1, 2021. Ultimately, this training evolution provided an ideal opportunity for EMF CP members to meet, train and work together to maximize command readiness.

NEMTI evaluated every EMF CP department on leadership, teamwork, administrative protocols, and medical knowledge and skills during the ORE, and 21 EMF CP Nurse Corps officers helped enable success in every department across all of these critical mission areas. These officers represented a wide spectrum of specialty practice areas including Medical Surgical, Operating Room, and Intensive Care and Emergency Trauma nurses as well as a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, Family Nurse Practitioner, and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists.

The EMF CP ORE provided yet another opportunity for the Navy Nurse Corps to demonstrate the versatility, leadership, expertise, and critical contributions of its members to expeditionary medicine as outstanding naval officers and medical professionals.



From left to right, back row: LT Rachel Nichols, LCDR Laureano Hidalgo, LT Jessica Clements, LCDR Vera Mann, LCDR Daniel Hazelbaker, LTJG Matthew Kretschmar, LT John Woods, LT Ronald Rollon. Middle row: LT Beth Zwick, LCDR Sharon Thompson-Mike, CDR Lilibeth Patricio, LT Jenn Leyman, LT Amanda McKinley, CDR Bryon Iveson, CAPT Johanna Mills. Front row: LT Karin Brown, LT Casey Hovey, CDR Grace Schonhardt, LCDR Maureen Bowser, LCDR Alexis Williams, CDR Evie Bates.

Several Nurse Corps officers also served as Subject Matter Experts (SME's) and evaluators with NR NEMTI. These versatile SMEs support expeditionary training at NEMTI throughout the year by providing EMF Phase IIB training, integrated medical/patient throughput training, scenario/mission training, emergency (fire, security, etc.) training, and other training evolutions as needed by NEMTI.~



Left to right: LCDR Carmen Davis, NR NMRTC JAX DET Puerto Rico/ NR NEMTI; LCDR Sarah Certano (active duty) ER trauma CNS DH 13ABHC/deployment health clinic NMRTC Camp Pendleton; LCDR Shelby Taylor, NR NMRTC Jax DET Tampa; CDR Garry Shores NR NMRTC Bethesda DET CTN; CDR Donna Meador, NR EMF Bethesda DET N.



# The Washington Metro Area Navy Nurse Corps Association (WMANNCA)

## Spring Luncheon 2022

---

WMANNCA is a chapter of the Navy Nurse Corps Association (NNCA) which is dedicated to preserve the rich history and the traditions of the Navy Nurse Corps. We accomplish this through networking and facilitating mentorship opportunities, advancing military nursing and advocating for the conservation of Nurse Corps memorabilia.

The luncheon on March 26th featured **RADM (Ret) Rebecca McCormick-Boyle**, **CAPT (Ret) Deirdre Smith** and **Ms. Joan Loepker-Duncan** sharing their experiences while providing care during the COVID-19 crisis and a follow-on organizational business meeting.~



Pictured: Back row, Sandra Peppard, Rebecca McCormick-Boyle, Odette Willis, Kate Christie, Kim LeBel, Marie Schaffer, Veronica Rubin, Cynthia Sweeney, Betsy Morris, Sue Miller, Jayne Vorder Bruegge, Maria Harbeson, Rosie Perdue, Middle row, Lucia Herndon, Christine Boltz, Kathy Thorp, Cindy Coyle, Deirdre Smith, Jacinta Gomes, Mary Anne Gardner, Boo Lahman, Carolyn Kirkland, Susan Jackson, Ann Devers, Joan Loepker-Duncan, Annette Beadle, Front row, CAPT Darling, LT Davis LT Bess, CDR Crane



---

## Admiral Alene B. Duerk Award: (Life membership)

---

The award was established to provide recognition to active duty and reserve Nurse Corps Officers who have made a significant contribution to the Navy, to Nursing, or to the NNCA.

The first award was presented at the 1992 Annual Meeting to RADM Alene B. Duerk as a way of establishing the Award.



**LT Chad Hagedorn**, NC, USN, is this year's recipient of the RADM Alene B. Duerk Award

As an active-duty Nurse Corps officer, currently assigned as the Director, Clinical Nurse Transition Program (CNTP) Director at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, he actively seeks out opportunities in which he can further the profession of nursing and mentor his colleagues. He co-authored the re-accreditation submission for FY 22 to the American Nursing Credentialing Center (ANCC) Practice Transition Accreditation Program (PTAP) leading to successful accreditation with distinction which exceeds the global standard of nurse residency programs.

As a mentor, he has provided 1:1 counseling and mentorship to all nurses enrolled in CNTP and to those who have graduated. LT Hagedorn facilitated 21 nurses deployed for Defense Support Civil Authority for COVID 19 vaccine missions. Adapting readily to the constraints necessitated by the Covid-19 pandemic, he designed a virtual curriculum to continue learning despite the restrictions and maintained 100% program compliance.

Dedicated to peer professional development, he served as Chairman of the Peer Review Hearing Panel and recorder of the Career Development Board. Through his involvement, participation increased from 78% to 90% in three months. As Nurse Practice Council, Co-Chair led 117 staff in coordination across 15 Unit Practice Councils to standardize nursing practices and policies. Recognizing and valuing the benefits of meaningful recognition for nurses, he also serves as a member of the WRNMMC Awards Board. Lt Chad Hagedorn is a Navy Nurse Corps officer who will be impacting our profession and our Navy Nurse Corps for many years to come. His contributions to the Navy, Navy Nurse Corps and his profession perfectly exemplify the tenets of the Admiral Alene B. Duerk Award.~



# The Journey of Officer Designator School - Class 22020

Article written by: **LT Sara Camperi**, NC, USNR, Labor and Delivery Nurse, EMF Great Lakes

In January of 2022, my classmates and I embarked on a 5-week journey that would change our lives forever. ODS Class 22020 was filled with nurses, doctors, lawyers, physician assistants, dentists, engineers, and intelligence officers. The social officers were charged with creating a coin, a shirt, and a mural to best represent the class. As a group, we decided on some key elements for the mural. We needed to include the sunset, the Freedom Bridge, a Naval Ship, flags from the countries represented by class members, the ever-present Canadian Geese, our class moto, and our Chiefs.

**The Ship.** The hard part of this task was coming up with which ship to paint. Not knowing a lot about naval ships, we had to do some research. First thing, we had to familiarize ourselves with the types of ships in the Naval Fleet. The Arleigh-Burke Class Guided Missile Destroyer (DDG) was put into production in 1988. We chose the DDG because the majority of our class was born around that year. While searching for pictures of the Arleigh-Burke Class Guided Missile Destroyer we came across the DDG-123, the USS Lenah H Sutcliffe Higbee. The DDG-123 was named after **Chief Nurse Lenah H Sutcliffe Higbee**. Lenah Higbee (1874-1941) was a Navy Nurse pioneer who served as superintendent of the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps during WWI. The USS Lenah H Sutcliffe Higbee was christened April 24, 2021. The motto of the DDG-123 is "Bellatrix Illa", which is Latin for "she is a warrior." As the USS Lenah H Sutcliffe Higbee is the most recent Arleigh-Burke Class Missile Destroyer, was named after a Navy Nurse, and had a motto that resonated with the class we felt that this ship best represented our class and had to be on our mural.

**The Sunset and the Bridge.** One of the happiest moments of the day at ODS was watching the sun set over the "Freedom" bridge. This meant that we had completed another day and were one step closer to our goal of graduating from ODS as official Navy Officers.

LTJG Hassan Abdelhalim  
ENS Yoga Acharya  
LT Emmanuel Agbor  
ENS Joseph Anderson  
ENS Natalie Aragon  
LTJG Dakota Baccus  
ENS Timothy Baker  
LTJG Courtney Bassani  
ENS James Benes  
LTJG Carrigan Blagburn  
ENS Michael Boer  
ENS Polina Burkart  
ENS Nikko Antonio Cabrera  
LT Sara Camperi  
LT Donald Carver  
ENS FrancesMarie Casuga  
ENS Alexis ChavezGrace  
LTJG Dominic Cheselka  
LTJG Kai Chur  
LTJG Kylar Clifton  
ENS Kalle Combs  
LTJG Summer Combs  
ENS Samuel Cothran  
ENS Maria Cunningham  
ENS Chaderic Daugherty  
LTJG Christopher Day  
ENS Jermin Deane  
LTJG Darinka Dettling  
ENS Kiernan Diamond  
ENS Charles Diffenderfer  
ENS Hayley DixonKarris  
ENS Emily Domenech  
ENS Stephen Dugan  
ENS Halle Ellis  
ENS Johan Espino  
LTJG Shelby Fallon  
ENS Hayden Fentress  
ENS Rhiannon Fletcher  
ENS Kevin Foley  
ENS Laura Forste  
LTJG Margaret Frelund  
ENS Andrea Gonzalez  
LT Andrew Goodson

ENS Kelsey Grolig  
ENS Alvin Guan  
LT John HannaBerry  
LTJG Jason Hannibal  
LTJG Rachel Hart  
ENS Dan Ho  
ENS Timothy Hoang  
ENS Brian Holsneck  
LTJG Victoria Hudson  
LTJG Jerry Ireland  
LTJG John Jankosky  
LTJG Spencer Jarvis  
LTJG David Jordan  
ENS Kathryn Jones  
ENS Patrick Kane  
ENS Akofa Kekeh  
LTJG Audrey Knutson  
ENS Tegan Koski  
ENS Natalia Kuhn  
LTJG Nickolas Lamal  
ENS Brittany LamonParedes  
ENS Joseph Landon  
LCDR Danny Little  
ENS Zachary Little  
LTJG Daniel Lucey  
ENS Christopher Marquez  
ENS Christian Martinez  
ENS Clayton Massa  
LTJG Briana McDaniel  
LT Tyler Moeller  
ENS Samantha Moretti  
ENS Benjamin Murray  
LTJG David Musser  
ENS Danielle Niemann  
ENS Joseph Nora  
ENS Hameedah Odusanya  
ENS Wesley Ortmann  
ENS Angelo Padilla  
ENS Raquel Paiz  
LTJG Joshua Palmer  
ENS Jacob Parker  
LTJG Kevin Parker  
LTJG Justin Reilly



ENS Kelsey Reno  
ENS Dax Russell  
LTJG Matthew Schaefer  
LTJG Samson Schatz  
LTJG Briana Seale  
ENS Emily Speckman  
LT Michael Sniffen  
LTJG Matthew Strigenz  
ENS Dhanusha Subramani  
LT Thomas Swift  
ENS Michael Thompson  
ENS Jacob Torres  
ENS Albert Tsai  
ENS Travis VanHouten  
LTJG Rocio Watson  
ENS Henry Weaver  
LT Mark Weber  
LTJG Thomas Williams  
LTJG Chelse Wilson  
LTJG Leah Wiltshire  
LTJG Hannah Wirt  
ENS Rachael Wood  
LT Lee Yi

LTJG Sarah Zakaroff  
LTJG Jackson Zeman



**The Flags.** The two words that described our class were versatility and diversity. We wanted to incorporate both versatility and diversity in our mural. The DDG-123 represented the versatility. To add the diversity, we decided to add the flags of all the countries that our classmates were from with the American Flag proudly set center stage.

**The Geese.** At first we wanted to include the geese as a tribute to our first trip to "The Pit," however, upon further investigation we discovered that geese work as a team and fly in a V formation in order to create lift that allows them to fly further with less effort. By working as a team, the geese are more effective, efficient, and successful. All throughout our training we were reminded that we needed to not work as individuals, but rather work as a team.

**The Motto and the Chiefs.** Our class had two mottos: Deliver Liberty. Defend Freedom. And Para Bellum. We wanted to incorporate both mottos on the mural. "Deliver Liberty. Defend Freedom." was the motto of the USS Ashland. The USS Ashland was commissioned May 9, 1992 and is still in service today. Para Bellum is Latin for Prepare for War. The Chiefs who oversaw our training would sound off triumphantly during our physical training, "Prepare for War." They were such a memorable part of our experience that we also wanted to represent them on our mural. We painted the fouled anchor with the motto, Para Bellum, in with great respect for our Chiefs and the lessons they taught us.~





# Hail and Farewell

## Reserve Force

<b>CDR Cynthia Kirtland Specialty Leader (Operational Nursing)</b>	<b>CAPT Jacob Wiemann Specialty Leader (Operational Nursing)</b>
<b>CDR Victor Canchola Specialty Leader (Med/Surg 1910)</b>	<b>CAPT Debra Brendley Specialty Leader (Med/Surg 1910)</b>
<b>CDR Teresa Scharar Assistant Specialty Leader (Med/Surg 1910)</b>	<b>CAPT Patricia Klimkewicz Assistant Specialty Leader (Med/Surg 1910)</b>
<b>CDR Carol Good Assistant Specialty Leader (Med/Surg 1910)</b>	<b>CDR Maria Noel Assistant Specialty Leader (Med/Surg 1910)</b>
<b>CAPT Patricia Klimkewicz Specialty Leader (Research 1900D)</b>	<b>CAPT Judy Dye Specialty Leader (Research 1900D)</b>
<b>CAPT Patricia Klimkewicz Specialty Leader (Public Health 1940)</b>	
<b>CDR Andrew Craig Specialty Leader (Advance Practice 1976)</b>	
<b>CDR Amy Garman Specialty Leader (Maternal Child 1920/1964/1981)</b>	<b>CDR Ann Mortara Specialty Leader (Maternal Child 1920/1964/1981)</b>
<b>CDR Cari Hodgson Specialty Leader (Pediatrics 1922/1974)</b>	<b>CDR Myra Cleary Specialty Leader (Pediatrics 1922/1974)</b>
<b>CDR Stephanie Kasper Specialty Leader (Nurse Anesthesia 1972)</b>	<b>CAPT Pamela Kilmartin Specialty Leader (Nurse Anesthesia 1972)</b>
<b>CDR Mary Crittenden Specialty Leader (Critical Care 1960)</b>	<b>CDR Bambi PishDerr Specialty Leader (Critical Care 1960)</b>
<b>LCDR Peter Sunden Assistant Specialty Leader (Critical Care 1960)</b>	<b>CDR Harvey Ross Assistant Specialty Leader (Critical Care 1960)</b>
<b>LCDR Ruth Primus Assistant Specialty Leader (Critical Care 1960)</b>	
<b>CDR Richard Coffman Specialty Leader (Perioperative Nursing 1950)</b>	<b>CDR Jamey Wilson Specialty Leader (Perioperative Nursing 1950)</b>
<b>LCDR Bennie Sumner Assistant Specialty Leader (Perioperative Nursing 1950)</b>	
<b>CDR Shirlene Sulatan Specialty Leader (Mental Health 1930/1973)</b>	<b>CAPT Gwendolyn Adams-McAlpine Specialty Leader (Mental Health 1930/1973)</b>
<b>CDR Evangeleine Bates Specialty Leader (Emergency Trauma 1945)</b>	
<b>CDR Jessica Kaser Assistant Special Leader (Emergency Trauma 1945)</b>	



# Fair Winds and Following Seas to Captain Dale Ramirez, NC, USN



CAPT Dale Ramirez joined the Navy Nurse Corps in December 1991, as an ENS, after graduating nursing school at Loma Linda University in Loma Linda, CA. Throughout his 30 years of faithful service, he has embraced opportunities to hold positions as Staff Nurse, Clinic Manager, Command Fitness Leader, Nurse of the Day, Division Officer, Department Head, Senior Nurse Executive/Director of Nursing Services, Branch Clinic Director, Executive Officer, and, most recently, Commanding Officer of NMRTC Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

CAPT Ramirez deployed aboard the USNS Comfort to provide humanitarian care to thousands of victims of Hurricane Katrina in

Pascagoula, Mississippi and New Orleans, Louisiana in 2005. In 2010, he deployed as SNE/DNS of Expeditionary Medical Facility Kuwait (KILO DET).

He posted shortly after his retirement ceremony on 12 May 2022, " ♡ Going Ashore ♡ After 30 years of wearing the Cloth of our Nation with Dot & the family at my side, I confidently pass the torch so the Inspiration of Excellence remains seamless across Navy Medicine. We're immensely thankful for the privilege to serve and the countless friendships we've gained. As I've been relieved—you all now have the Watch."

With his Command philosophy to *"Inspire Excellence"*—Thank you for your commitment and dedication to the Navy and Navy Nursing. You have left a legacy of leadership with compassion that will be difficult to match!~



Bravo Zulu & Congratulations!



NMRTC Guantanamo Bay Triad (LtoR) CMC Marvin Ramos, CAPT Dale Ramirez, and CAPT Anja Dabelic, MC



NMRTC Guantanamo Bay (12May22): Incoming and Outgoing Commanding Officers and wives pose for a photo at CAPT Ramirez's retirement ceremony, (LtoR) Bonnie Zeber, CAPT Rick Zeber, CAPT Dale Ramirez, Dot Ramirez





# BRAVO ZULU!

## *Certifications*

**LTJG Julianna Umbehr**, NMRTC Rota, Spain, obtained her Inpatient Obstetric Nursing (RNC-OB) certification highlighting her commitment to lifelong learning and expertise in the Perinatal Realm.

**LT Liza M. Charnoki**, 1 Medical Battalion, earned her Emergency Nursing (CEN) certification.

**LT Justin Roelofs**, NMRTC Okinawa, earned his CEN.

**LTJG Eurice D. Elefano**, NMRTC San Diego, earned Perioperative Nursing certification (CNOR).

**LT Kyle Follebout**, NMRTC Okinawa, earned his Medical-Surgical Nursing certification (CMSRN).

**ENS Tess Miller**, NMRTC San Diego, earned her Adult Critical Care Nursing certification (CCRN-Adult).

**LTJG Melissa Anderson**, NMRTC Portsmouth, earned her CCRN-Adult.

**LT Michelle E. Araya**, NMRTC Okinawa, earned her RNC-OB.

**LTJG Rachal Vines**, NMRTC Twentynine Palms, earned her RNC-OB.

**LTJG Malorie Gallagher**, NMRTC Guantanamo Bay, earned her CEN.

**LCDR Erin Ryan**, NMRTC Portsmouth, earned her Ambulatory Care Nursing certification (AMB-BC).

**LT Anthony Foster**, NMRTC San Diego, earned his CNOR.

**LTJG Justine Brady**, NMRTC San Diego, earned her CCRN-Adult.

**LTJG Rose M. Johnson**, NMRTC Jacksonville, earned her CMSRN.

**LT Ibrahim Akano**, NMRTC San Diego, earned CNOR.

**LT Kelsey Gurney**, NMRTC San Diego, earned CNOR.

**ENS Anna McCarley**, NMRTC San Diego, earned her CCRN-Adult.

**LT Yusuf Abdullah**, NMRTC Sasebo, earned CMSRN.

**LTJG Bianca D. Thomas**, NMRTC Portsmouth, earned her Post-Anesthesia Nursing certification (CPAN).

**LT Taylor M. Scott**, NMRTC Naples, earned Pediatric Critical Care Nursing certification (CCRN-Pediatric).

**LT Ronald S. Rollon**, NR NMRTC Camp Pendleton, earned his Evidence-Based Practice certification (EBP-C).

**LT Catharyn Nosek**, NMRTC Portsmouth, earned her CCRN-Adult.

**LT Rowena R. Gilmore**, NMRTC San Diego, earned her CNOR.

**LT Candace M. Stover**, NMRTC San Diego, earned her CNOR.

**LCDR Kirra Tobias**, NMRTC San Diego, earned her CNOR.

**LT Adam Roebuck**, NMRTC Naples, earned his CEN.



# BRAVO ZULU!

## *Education*

**LT Raephael Garcia**, NMRTC Jacksonville, earned his Executive Medicine (67A) AQD.

Dedicated to lifelong learning and the pursuit of excellence, **LCDR Jaime York**, NAVHOSP Rota Spain, earned a Master of Science in Nursing: Nursing Education.

**LCDR Keith A. West**, NMRTC Bremerton, earned his Masters of Business Administration with concentration of Healthcare Administration from the American Military University.

**LT Ellen Wengler**, NMRTC Camp Pendleton, earned her Mental Health Nurse Practitioner license.

**CDR Tracie Mashore**, NR NMRTC Jacksonville, earned her MSN in Health Care Leadership from Grand Canyon University.

**CDR Krista Penn**, NR NMRTC Jacksonville, earned her Doctorate in Healthcare Administration from Walden University.

## **2022 American Association of Critical Care Nurses National Teaching Institute (NTI) Houston TX May 15-18, 2022**

NTI is the most relevant and innovative educational content for critical care nurses with over 200 sessions covering 50 diverse clinical topics. Navy Nurses were in attendance and ever present!!



Navy Nurses at NTI – Left to Right: CDR Heather Shattuck, Branch Head Trauma Strategy Management Office, BUMED, LTJG Zachary Miller, Critical Care Nurse, NMRTC Lejeune, LCDR Sachiko Ikari, Critical Care Clinical Nurse Specialist, NMRTC Camp Lejeune, LCDR Joshua Jones, Department Head, Intensive Care Unit, NMRTC Jacksonville, CAPT Carl Goforth, Chief Nursing Officer USN NMRTC Jacksonville, CAPT Julie Darling, Nurse Corps Career Planner, BUMED, LT Destanie Hoppe, Critical Care Nurse, 2 MED BN, LT Arron Leuke, Critical Care Nurse, 2 MED BN



# BRAVO ZULU!

## Recognition

Congratulations to **LCDR Liza Stone** on her selection as the Navy Nurse Corps Nurse Residency Program Manager!

### MARCH 2022 PERIOPERATIVE NURSE TRAINING PROGRAM SELECTIONS!

The following active duty officers were selected for the the Navy's Perioperative Nurse Training Program:

**LTJG Horan, Brigid A.** - NMRTC Portsmouth  
**LTJG Lacombe, Angelica A.** - NMRTC Okinawa  
**LT LeBlanc, Sarah A.** - NMRTU Mayport  
**LTJG Liebing, Kaitlyn B.** - NMRTC San Diego  
**LTJG Thomas, Bianca D.** - NMRTC Portsmouth  
**LTJG Ventura, Joseph J.** - NMRTC Portsmouth

### Congratulations to the new Nurse Corps Competency Program Managers!

**LCDR Margaret Mitzkewich** as the NCCP Manager

**LCDR Adam Arrogante** as the Assistant NCCP Manager

A special thanks to **CDR Dagoberto Salinas** (outgoing program manager) for his expertise, drive, and innovative approaches to help drive the collaborative modifications and adaptations of the overall program in concert with the Nurse Corps Office guidance. His efforts have allowed for numerous commands to streamline processes, simplify reports for leaders and surveyors, and ensure the uninterrupted use of the Elsevier Clinical Skills for the Navy Nurse Corps. I wish him, and his family, the best of luck as he prepares for his next adventure.

~CAPT Richard Lawrence, Assistant Director for Policy and Practice

**Captain Michelle Martin**, from NR NMRTC Camp Pendleton, coauthored and published an article regarding the feasibility and benefits of home removal of scalp staples placed in a pediatric emergency department. In this prospective study, caregivers were taught how to remove their child's scalp staples in the PED prior to discharge. Ninety three percent of enrolled patients had their staples completely removed at home with no reported complications. For more information, read the article on *Pediatric Emergency Care* Volume 38 Issue 3.

**Nikki Pritchard**, MPH, BSN, RN, LCDR, NC, USN, Director of Public Health, NMRTC Twentynine Palms, CA was awarded by Belmont University's School of Nursing as one of their "50 Outstanding Graduates" at their 50th Anniversary celebration on May 14th!

Click [here](#) for link to the full news story.

*Submitted by:* Julia Couch, Content Writer  
Belmont University Marketing and Communications



# BRAVO ZULU!

## Recognition

### Fed100 Winners Recognized at An Evening of Honors



Photo Credit: Fed100 and Government Hall of Fame Gala, National Cathedral, Washington D.C., photo credit Jason Ortiz; Jason Ortiz (L) and LCDR Josh Wymer NC USN (R), photo credit Jason Ortiz.

*Submitted by: LCDR Joshua Wymer, NMRTC San Diego*

The Federal 100 and Government Hall of Fame gala was held May 12, 2022, at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. The event honored current and former government officials and industry stakeholders who have made historic achievements and advances across government. Presented by FCW and Government Executive, the winners were selected by a panel of government and industry judges from hundreds of nominations.

This year's winners include **Navy Lieutenant Commander Josh Wymer**, NC, USN, as well as many other prestigious government and industry professionals. LCDR Wymer currently serves as Chief Health Information Officer, San Diego Market, Defense Health Agency, and as Chief Nursing Informatics Officer and Vice-Chair, Informatics Steering Committee, Naval Medical Center San Diego. Wymer was recognized for his key leadership and coordination role in the highly complex deployment of the Military Health System's new electronic health record solution.

#### The 2022 Fed100 Winners include:

- Pete Buttigieg, Secretary, Transportation Department
- Dr. Leonie K. Heyworth, National Director of Synchronous Telehealth, Veterans' Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs
- Senator Gary Peters, Chairman, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, U.S. Senate

The event featured the National Cathedral Choir and the induction of noteworthy luminaries into the Government Hall of Fame, including Dr. Francis Collins who was introduced by Dr. Anthony Fauci.

To find out more about this prestigious event, click [HERE](#). To find out more about the 2022 Fed100 Award winners, click [HERE](#). To find out more about this year's Government Hall of Fame Inductees, click [HERE](#).

### Nurses from Bravo Surgical Company, 3d Medical Battalion earn their Fleet Marine Force (FMF) qualification

**LT Shane Green, LT John Dulko, LT Michele Taylor,  
LT Alexandria Neuzil, LT Aizik Landaverde**

